

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 071893

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, BU, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET-BULGARIAN INTEGRATION IN MILITARY FIELD

REF: SOFIA MILTEL 021500, APRIL 2, 1974

1. REFTEL REPORTED RUMORS ALLEGING INFLUX OF SEVERAL THOUSAND SOVIET TRANSPORTATION TROOPS INTO BULGARIA. EARLIER MESSAGE FROM SOFIA FOCUSSED ON QUESTION OF POSSIBLE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF HIGH RANKING SOVIET OFFICERS STATIONED IN BULGARIA.

2. DEPARTMENT REMAINS KEENLY INTERESTED IN ANY EVIDENCE SHOWING WHAT INVOLVED IN SOVIET-BULGARIAN INTEGRATION IN MILITARY FIELD. AS NOTED IN EMBASSY'S A-53, MARCH 14, 1973, UNUSUAL REFERENCES TO SUCH INTEGRATION MADE BY BULGARIAN LEADERS FOLLOWING ZHIVKOV'S TRIP TO MOSCOW IN OCTOBER 1972.

3. EMBASSY COMMENTS REQUESTED ON RUMORS OR REPORTS RE SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL IN BULGARIA AND STATUS OF SOVIET-BULGARIAN INTEGRATION IN MILITARY FIELD. EMBASSY ALSO
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REQUESTED ADVISE SOURCE OF RUMORS RE BULGARIAN MILITARY

MOVEMENTS ALONG YUGOSLAV FRONTIER AND WHETHER THESE RUMORS
MAY BE PART OF WAR OF NERVES TRIGGERED BY TITO'S RECENT
ILLNESS OR CANCELLATION OF ZHIVKOV VISIT TO BELGRADE.

4. SOFIA MILTEL 290728 AND WARSAW MILTEL 020847 REPORT
SOFIA NAMED HEADQUARTERS FOR WARSAW PACT SOUTHERN
COMMAND. WOULD APPRECIATE EMB EVALUATION THESE REPORTS
ALSO.

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